



# 2015-2016 Membership Application

## City of Wichita Mayor's Youth Council

City Hall | 455 North Main Street | 13<sup>th</sup> Floor

Wichita, Kansas 67202

(316) 303-8051 | [WichitaMYC@gmail.com](mailto:WichitaMYC@gmail.com)

<http://www.Wichita.gov/Government/MYC>

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# **Mayor's Youth Council Membership Criteria and Application**

*Deadline for Applying: April 10, 2015*



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## **What is the Mayor's Youth Council?**

More than a quarter of Wichita's population is made up of people younger than 18 – the legal voting age. Despite being unable to vote, this citizen group is essential to a healthy community and should be engaged and active in public affairs and community service.

Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) provides an outlet for young leaders to discuss and take action on issues that are important to Wichita's youth. Members of the Mayor's Youth Council have numerous opportunities to develop their personal leadership skills through community service, act as a catalyst for youth engagement in community matters through advocacy and public education, and represent their peers in the development and adoption of public policy.

The mission of the Mayor's Youth Council is to provide Wichita youth with the opportunity to weigh in on community issues and learn about City government. Our vision is that all youth of Wichita are secure, educated, and connected to the community.

## **Want to Join Us?**

You can apply to join the Mayor's Youth Council if the list below describes you!

- You are currently in grades 8-11.
- You live in the City of Wichita.
- You have a grade point average of at least 2.5.
- You have a passion for serving your community.
- You want to learn about city government and be a leader among Wichita youth.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions about the Mayor's Youth Council or this application, please contact:

**Kimberly Harris, MYC Coordinator, (316) 303-8051, [WichitaMYC@gmail.com](mailto:WichitaMYC@gmail.com)**

## **How to Apply**

1. Complete and sign this application (please print or type).
2. Insert an official verification of your grade point average.
3. Obtain your parent's or legal guardian's signature, giving you permission to participate.
4. Submit your application by April 10, 2015 using one of the following methods:
  - a. Mail or deliver the application to:

Mayor's Youth Council  
C/O City Manager's Office  
City Hall, 455 N. Main St., 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Wichita, KS 67202

- b. Email a signed copy of the application to [WichitaMYC@gmail.com](mailto:WichitaMYC@gmail.com).
    - In the subject line, please type, "[First Name] [Last Name] – MYC Application."  
*Example: John Doe – MYC Application*

## **Selection Criteria**

Selections will be made based on the following criteria:

- The student's interest in serving on the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC). Participation includes attending one MYC regular meeting and one MYC committee meeting each month, along with other meetings and events as they arise.
- The student's history of active community involvement, volunteerism, a desire to serve others, and public service.
- The student's interest in potentially pursuing a college education and career in public service.
- The student's desire to develop his/her leadership potential.
- The student's history of academic achievement.
- Feedback from the student's references.
- An interview with the selection committee.

## **Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level for the 2015-2016 School Year: *Freshman* ☐ | *Sophomore* ☐ | *Junior* ☐ | *Senior* ☐

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If you indicated that you reside in a city other than Wichita, KS, will you live within, or attend school in the corporate limits of the City of Wichita during the 2016-2016 school year? Yes ☐ | No ☐

*If no, we are sorry, but you are not eligible to apply to the Mayor's Youth Council at this time.*

The responses to the following questions will be used to gauge the diversity of the applicant pool:

Race/ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Your School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Your City Council District (1-6): \_\_\_\_\_

*If unsure, visit <http://gismaps.wichita.gov/publicsite>, select the Find & Identify tab, click Find Address, enter your address, and select Search. Lastly, where it says All Available Layers on the far right, click it and select Council Districts. Your address should now be in a colored area with the district number and council member's name. That's your district! Contact us if you need help.*

## **Emergency Contact Information**

Name of Emergency Contact(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Emergency Contact to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) of Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Essay Responses**

Please respond to the following questions as thoroughly as possible. Responses may be provided on a separate page, if needed.

1) Why are you interested in public service? Public service includes things like learning about city government, speaking up on issues you care about, and helping your community.

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2) Why are you a good candidate for the Mayor's Youth Council?

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3) What activities are you involved in at school and in the community?

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4) Which experiences have prepared you to be a successful member of the Mayor's Youth Council?

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5) Have you previously served on the Mayor's Youth Council? *Yes* ☐ | *No* ☐

If yes, list previous Mayor's Youth Council positions held and the year you held them.

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6) Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm.

Committee meetings occur on either the 4th Monday or Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm.

☐ I am available to attend meetings at those times.

☐ I am not available to attend meetings at those times.

7) Provide an essay that explains what you believe to be the most important issue(s) facing Wichita's youth and how, as a member of the Mayor's Youth Council, you would work with area youth, local government, and local nonprofit agencies to address this issue. The essay should be a maximum of two pages and double-spaced. Attach the essay to this application.

8) Include two letters of recommendation from adults you have worked with in school or non-school activities (e.g. teacher, counselor, coach, supervisor, etc.). Ask the letter writers to include their name, phone number, and email address in the letters.

### **Statement of Commitment**

I understand the time commitment required for the Mayor's Youth Council and that my attendance and active participation is essential to making the Mayor's Youth Council the best student-led organization in Wichita. **I also understand that if I have more than 3 unexcused absences, I must meet with the executive committee members to discuss my absences, commitment to the Mayor's Youth Council, and future attendance at MYC events.** Lastly, I understand the importance of teamwork and cooperation, and I will be committed to this council and to my fellow council members.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature*

As the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_,

I give consent for my child to participate on the Mayor's Youth Council and all related activities.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_